

The Pocahontas Times.

Vol. 26, No. 22

Marinton, Pocahontas Co., West Virginia, December 26, 1907

\$1.00 A Year

MONONGAH RELIEF WORK

At Monongah, West Virginia, five miles from Fairmont, at 10:30 a. m., Friday, December 6, 1907, an explosion in Mine No. 6 and Mine No. 8 of the Fairmont Coal Company occurred, resulting in the death of approximately 350 employees.

Monongah is a mining town of about 3,000 inhabitants. This disaster has destroyed almost one half of its bread-winners. The other half is composed of the employees of two other mines of the same Company, and of the usual stores, etc., which go to make up a purely mining community.

Fully 250 widows and 1,000 children are left without any means of support. The most of these families live in the company's houses at Monongah, the remaining ones in various countries of Europe. The Company has generously declared that the families occupying their houses may remain until other provision is made for them, but operations cannot be resumed at the damaged mines until these houses are available for the new force. Many of the resident families seek a community in which they can earn a livelihood.

Aid must be given these families to reach their new abodes and to help them establish themselves, and the families living abroad must be provided for until they can adjust themselves to their new conditions.

As near as can be determined at this time almost \$50,000 from all sources has been subscribed. Upon the basis of \$300 for each widow, and \$100 for each child under 16 years of age, \$175,000 will be required. At least \$35,000 additional will be needed to provide, on relatively the same basis, for the aged dependents of the unmarried victims, the many now unborn children and the undoubted accessions to the married victims' list when complete information has been received.

The committee feels that a basis lower than the above will not be adequate to properly care for the needs of the bereaved ones, and a total of \$300,000 will therefore be required to carry out the relief work on this basis.

The immediate needs of the resident families are being simply met by the Company and a committee of women from Fairmont and Monongah.

The committee begs to express its profound gratitude for the contributions already so generously made, and to earnestly appeal for the further assistance that it feels is so badly needed.

The magnitude of this disaster is too great for West Virginia to alone render all the help required. It commands national attention, and the committee feels assured that its appeal will be heard, and responded to, by the nation.

All checks should be made payable to the Monongah Mines Relief Committee, J. E. Sands, Treasurer, Fairmont, W. Va., and they and all cash contributions should be sent to him.

Yours very truly,
W. M. O. Dawson, Governor of West Virginia, Chairman.
A. Howard Fleming, Postmaster of Fairmont, Secretary.
F. S. Donahoe, Bishop of Wheeling.
John W. Mason, Judge of Circuit Court.
W. E. Arnett, Mayor of Fairmont.
W. H. Monroe, Mayor of Monongah.

Subscription Committee.

The County of Fayette has been sued by David Williams for \$5,000 damage for personal injuries and \$125 for injury to his horse caused by the breaking of a bridge at Glen Jean.

Match Makers Anxious

Decreasing Supply of Timber is Already Worrying Manufacturers—It is perhaps more characteristic of Americans than of any other people to hold small things in contempt, forgetting that "little drops of water, little grains of sand" constitute the planet we inhabit. A match is a small and insignificant affair, yet multiplied as it has been in this country and the rest of the civilized world it has become one of the most important of modern material development. It has come into use at a late day in the world's history. There are many living among us still who can remember when the flint and tinder were the regular means of starting a fresh fire, and the old one was carefully preserved by burying the embers night after night to be revived in the morning. It is eighty years ago the present year that the lucifer match, the first genuine friction match, was invented, and even that required an attachment of bent sand paper to produce the desired results.

It is hard for the present generation to realize the inconveniences from which the friction match emancipated their ancestors. The manufacture of this product has become a great and even a somewhat diversified industry, because every section seems to have matches peculiar to itself. A man who has been a commercial traveler for many years tells us that if he were taken up and carried to any point east of the Alleghenies he could tell within a hundred miles of where he was by the matches he should find in use. There is also a national pride in matches. A recent mayor of Manchester, England, visiting friends in Boston a few days ago, spoke lightly of our "abominable matches," and declared that he did not see how a high-spirited, independent enterprising people like ourselves put up with them.

The American people, however, appear to be fairly well content with the home product, else they would not buy and consume so many with comparatively so little grumbling. They use about 700,000,000,000 a year or about half of all that are manufactured in the world. There are hundreds of factories scattered over the country, one plant on the Pacific Coast covering 240 acres and operating over thirty miles of railroad, over which is carried to it daily 200,000 feet of sugar pine and yellow pine logs for the match machines. Inferior lumber will not do. It must be straight grain and free from knots and carefully treated in addition. The by-product goes into larger things. The factory on the Pacific Coast referred to turns out as this by-product a thousand doors and 800 window sashes daily. In a single year one match company in the lake region cut 235,000,000 board feet of pine, though that was intended for more than a year's product.

It is no wonder, when we consider these figures, that the match makers are becoming anxious. And that is true in other countries as well as our own. In Germany and France there is a movement to have forests planted just for match timber, and we may soon face a famine in match wood in this country, for not all kinds can be used for that purpose.

It may also happen that invention may develop something that will take the place of matches. It is not probable that the limit of progress has been reached in the means of producing fire at need. There is no Promethian penalty for the man who shall make the discovery, but rather welcome and reward by his eager fellow

ONOTO

We have been having some very nice winter weather for a week, and sleigh bells have been in evidence part of the time.

Mrs. T. S. Dulaney fell on the ice one day last week and broke one bone in her arm near the wrist.

Arnor Moore was visiting his daughter, Mrs. C. C. Baxter, one day last week.

Robert Aldridge, of Millpoint, spent Saturday night and Sunday at this place.

A. C. Barlow is feeding a number of cattle and sheep on the Gibson farm this winter.

The Pine Grove school is progressing nicely under the management of Prof. D. L. Barlow.

Frank Patterson passed this place one day last week with a nice drove of sheep; he was bringing them in from his Williams river farm.

Miss Pearl Taylor is at home for the holidays from her school at Buena Vista, Va.

Miss Georgia Baxter came home Saturday from Barlow where she has been spending most of the summer and fall with her sister, Mrs. H. A. Sear.

Several of the boys who have been working on the lumber jobs about here, have gone home to spend the holidays.

ONOTO

We have been having some very nice winter weather for a week, and sleigh bells have been in evidence part of the time.

Mrs. T. S. Dulaney fell on the ice one day last week and broke one bone in her arm near the wrist.

Arnor Moore was visiting his daughter, Mrs. C. C. Baxter, one day last week.

Robert Aldridge, of Millpoint, spent Saturday night and Sunday at this place.

A. C. Barlow is feeding a number of cattle and sheep on the Gibson farm this winter.

The Pine Grove school is progressing nicely under the management of Prof. D. L. Barlow.

Frank Patterson passed this place one day last week with a nice drove of sheep; he was bringing them in from his Williams river farm.

Miss Pearl Taylor is at home for the holidays from her school at Buena Vista, Va.

Miss Georgia Baxter came home Saturday from Barlow where she has been spending most of the summer and fall with her sister, Mrs. H. A. Sear.

Several of the boys who have been working on the lumber jobs about here, have gone home to spend the holidays.

ONOTO

We have been having some very nice winter weather for a week, and sleigh bells have been in evidence part of the time.

Mrs. T. S. Dulaney fell on the ice one day last week and broke one bone in her arm near the wrist.

Arnor Moore was visiting his daughter, Mrs. C. C. Baxter, one day last week.

Robert Aldridge, of Millpoint, spent Saturday night and Sunday at this place.

A. C. Barlow is feeding a number of cattle and sheep on the Gibson farm this winter.

The Pine Grove school is progressing nicely under the management of Prof. D. L. Barlow.

Frank Patterson passed this place one day last week with a nice drove of sheep; he was bringing them in from his Williams river farm.

Miss Pearl Taylor is at home for the holidays from her school at Buena Vista, Va.

Miss Georgia Baxter came home Saturday from Barlow where she has been spending most of the summer and fall with her sister, Mrs. H. A. Sear.

Several of the boys who have been working on the lumber jobs about here, have gone home to spend the holidays.

LOSELIA

Snow is about four or five inches deep.

There were two sermons here last Sunday, one by Rev. Steah in the Methodist church, and Rev. Woodridge in the Baptist church.

R. S. Hill returned home last Saturday from Richmond where he has been hunting and reports that he saw two big deer.

T. R. Vaughan was at home a few days last week from Fort Spruce where he has a position with the Hickory Lumber Co.

J. A. Young was helping J. B. Grimes doctor his horse Saturday. Old Kit was down with indigestion.

J. C. Kennison has a sore hand which is giving him trouble.

S. E. McCarty, of Seebert, was in this part last week taking pictures and fixing watches.

The spelling match at T. A. Bruffley's school were enjoyed by all that was present. Harry Henry received the medal.

Fayre and Kennison have shut their sawmill on Hills Creek down for the winter.

Ben Bobbett and Johnnie Skidmore are in town. They say the loggers are out of a house where once they had a job whenever they wanted it.

Joe Walton and son Clarence were in town Saturday delivering beef.

Lovic Vaughan is doing business for the Lobelia Supply Co.

James Wickline is feeding and taking care of E. O. Moore's cattle. Mr. Moore has as fine a bunch of cattle as there is in the county.

George Dean has a big logging job in Greenbrier for Aumlir.

Roy and Jack Clouser were at home a few days and report the lumbering on a boom in Greenbrier.

Pat Henry is home from the Cherry River lumber camp and is going to school.

Robert Williams is the champion hunter—he killed twenty rabbits in four days.

Council Re-Organized

J. Alfred Taylor, of Fayetteville who is State Council Secretary of the Order of United American Mechanics was in Marlinton last week re-organizing Pocahontas Council No. 15, which was dissolved some time ago.

Mr. Taylor informs us that the Order is rapidly growing in this State, fourteen new Councils and three reorganizations having been effected during the year ending October 15, making a net gain in membership of over 1,000. Since that time five new Councils have been instituted in Greenbrier, two in Kanawha and one in Fayette. Another will be instituted in Greenbrier county, at Asbury, tomorrow night.

This Order is purely American and only native born are accepted. It has for its motto the three ennobling principles of "Honesty, Industry and Sobriety," and has three degrees illustrative of these virtues.

An effort is being made by the Fairmont Coal and Coke Company to establish an orphanage to take care of the children of the victims of the recent mine disaster and all who may be made homeless by mine accidents. There are fully 1,000 orphans at Monongah. The orphanage will cost \$50,000.

STATE NEWS

Three children were burned to death in a horrible manner at Hotokar, in Logan county, last week. The mother had locked them in the house while she had gone to visit a neighbor. While she was gone the building took fire in some manner, and before the flames were discovered the building was ready to fall in. The father made frantic efforts to save his children was able to find but one, the baby, who died a few hours after. The other two, aged six and four years, had taken refuge under the bed, where the little bodies were found locked in in each other's arms.

A receiver has been appointed for Hotel Randolph, at Elkins. Inability to pay interest on a debt of \$60,000 and running expenses is the cause. With the Gasaway also in the hands of a receiver and another hotel in ashes, this has been a hard week on Elkins' hostleries.

The Supreme Court has refused to reverse itself in the famous levy suit from Wirt county which over the constitutional right of the county court to levy an amount in excess of the thirty-five cent limit imposed by the new tax laws. In all probability this will settle the question of an extra session of the legislature, and it is thought that the Governor will immediately issue a call.

Editor Weir, of the Randolph Enterprise, like to have busted himself in getting into bed Wednesday night. Coming in late he failed to turn on the light and made a flying leap for the bed, and hit the floor with a resounding thump. Some one had changed the bed's position in his absence.

Mrs. Mary McCollum, wife of James McCollum, died at her home on Mill Creek, Randolph last week, aged 55 years, of paralysis. Her husband is a nephew of the venerable James A. McCollum of Beck's Mountain.

On last Thursday the Monongah mine horror was repeated near Conneville, Pennsylvania, when an explosion of gas or dust wrecked a mine and entombed over two hundred miners. It is thought that not one will escape as the mines took fire immediately after the explosion. In the last six years over eleven thousand men have lost their lives in American mine disasters.

A large deer was killed on the outskirts of Louisburg a few days before the close of the open season. For a number of years a small herd of deer have made their home in the brushy country that lies between the James and Greenbrier rivers. Occasionally one is killed, but they are little troubled by dogs or varmints and gradually on the increase. Sometimes they are driven by stress of weather conditions to come out in the open and feed with the cattle.

W. S. Hambrick, of Swamp, Webster county, caught an otter that measured four and a half feet in length and weighed twenty-eight pounds. Some days previous he had tracked it to a ledge of rock some distance from the water. He stopped the hole, set a trap and finally started the otter out. Another large otter was caught in the same locality some weeks ago.

Is the Federal Court at Charleston last week ten men were sentenced to the penitentiary for conspiracy. An organized band of outlaws had been making themselves an unbearable nuisance in Lincoln county for sometime. It is thought this wholesale conviction will have a tendency to check lawlessness for some time, although a murder has been reported as a sequel to the trial.

Net a Man of Privility.
Dr. Douglas of Keith, who was made an honorary member of the Aberdeen society in 1894, had a reputation for bluntness. A talkative woman went to him one day and said to him, "Doctor, what is the matter with my tongue?" "Just needs a rap," he replied shortly. On another day a patient went to him and complained, "I have a deal to offer with my eyes, doctor," whereupon he answered, "Better suffer with them than with your ears."